

a gigantic edition. It much resembles the last-named Owl, which we have also received from Fantee, but is double the size at least; and the body underneath is more evenly barred with white, so that it does not show those great white blotches which induced Temminck to assign the name of *leucosticta* to its smaller representative. Mr. Gurney, who has seen our specimen, agrees that it is quite new to science.

This species is dedicated by us to Captain G. E. Shelley, with an ardent wish that the researches he is now prosecuting in the dangerous climate of Western Africa may be rewarded with the same success which has attended his well-known studies of bird-life in the less fatal and more accessible country of Egypt.

XXIV.—*New and forthcoming Ornithological Works, &c.*

PERHAPS at no time since ornithology became a recognized science has so much activity been shown by ornithologists as at the present moment; for though there appears to be little movement in some countries which were once foremost in their contributions, these deficiencies are more than compensated by the energy displayed in others.

We propose to give a short account of some of the new publications that have come under our notice during the last few months, and also to announce to our readers a prospect of certain other works being shortly issued from the press. Besides these additions to ornithological literature, the works already mentioned in these pages have been making steady progress; and some, such as Sharpe's Monograph of the *Alcedinidæ* and Marshall's *Capitonidæ*, have been completed. At the same time the various journals of scientific societies open to such subjects abound with ornithological papers. As these latter are, or ought to be, in the hands of most of our readers, and as they will be referred to on a subsequent occasion, it is not our intention to draw special attention to them, but only to such publications as are not so readily accessible.

Several works on the birds of our own islands have recently made their appearance. The first number of a new edition of

Yarrell's *History of British Birds*, revised by Professor Newton*, was issued in June last; and up to now three parts have been published. It is needless for us to say that Mr. Newton has bestowed the greatest care in his revision of this standard work; and a glance at its pages will show how much has been added and altered, so as to incorporate all the most recent information into the text. The work is to be completed in about twenty-five parts, and illustrated by 600 engravings. We have only one complaint to make with reference to this important work, and that concerns the slow rate at which the parts are issued. In June last we were promised by the publisher the second part in August, and future parts on the 1st of each subsequent month. Part II. appeared in due time, but Part III. bears the date February 1872. At this rate of issue it will be five years at least before the final part is completed.

Mr. Robert Gray has recently completed his promised book on the birds of West Scotland and the Outer Hebrides†.

Mr. Gray tells us that he has been upwards of twenty years collecting materials for the present work. Its chief feature consists in the ample details given respecting the places where each species is found within the limits of the field chosen for the author's observations. In the case of stragglers, of which Western Scotland has received a very considerable share, the particulars in each instance are detailed, and in some cases a description of the stranger is added.

The method of treating such birds is in a somewhat unsettled state; and considerable hesitation is shown, though not by Mr. Gray especially, whether to admit such waifs and strays into our list as welcome additions or to exclude them as intruders. We ourselves think that no hard line can be drawn in either direction, but that outside the interests of local faunas there remains a much wider question, bearing upon the modification

* *History of British Birds*, by the late William Yarrell. Fourth edition, revised by Alfred Newton. Parts I. II. III. (Van Voorst.)

† *The Birds of the West of Scotland, including the Outer Hebrides, with occasional records of the occurrence of the rarer species throughout Scotland generally.* By Robert Gray. 8vo, pp. 520. 1871. Glasgow (Thomas Murray & Sons).

and extent of the distribution of species in general. In this light all instances of the occurrence of stragglers beyond their usual limits cannot be too frequently or too carefully recorded. The instances where species become established by accidental means may be few and far between; and, as a rule, stragglers obtain no foothold for the species to which they belong: but who can tell when the exception may take the place of the rule? We should have liked to have seen the usual range of many of the stragglers mentioned in this work given. For instance, there is nothing to show which of the four quarters of the globe *Tringa rufescens* and *T. pectoralis* inhabit. Such information, it is true, is easily obtained; but a few words in each case would have sufficed to impart much instruction to those whose opportunities of making references are limited.

Mr. Harting has lately published two works bearing upon ornithology*, but which hardly call for comment here. With regard to the first, we must confess that we put it down with a somewhat uneasy feeling that shore-shooting was hardly legitimate "sport;" and we trust it will never become popular. We admit the enjoyment of a good day's shooting; but whence comes our satisfaction? We sometimes suspect that the life-and-death necessities of old savage days have still something to answer for; and that what we now call the enjoyment of sport is an inheritance of the nature of an instinct, from long-past times, when successful or non-successful chase was a matter of the utmost moment, as involving the acquirement of a sufficiency of food, or the reverse, and its consequences. No such necessities now exist; and we should like to look forward to a time when birds will afford many of us a purer enjoyment than now, derived from watching their movements and habits, without taking their lives and harrying their nests. We do not really want "shore-birds" for food, and the requirements of science are soon satisfied; why then shoot them five or six at a shot?

In 'The Ornithology of Shakespeare'†, Mr. Harting has

* Hints on Shore-shooting, with a chapter on skinning and preserving birds. By James Edmund Harting. London, 1871 (Van Voorst).

† The Ornithology of Shakespeare, critically examined, explained and illustrated. By James Edmund Harting. 8vo. London, 1871 (Van Voorst).

given a modern interpretation to most of the allusions to birds contained in Shakespeare's works. These notes are accompanied with suitable accessory matter, and the whole subject is worked up into a volume of 321 pages. Some nicely executed woodcuts are interspersed throughout the work, which is elaborated with great care, the paper and typography being all that could be desired.

For a fuller explanation than that given by Mr. Harting of the well-known passage in Hamlet, "I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is southerly I know a Hawk from a Heronshaw," see Mr. Newton's note in the fourth edition of Yarrell's *British Birds*, i. p. 57.

Messrs. Sharpe and Dresser have made a fair start with their *History of the Birds of Europe**, and nine parts have been issued since March last (1871). There are several points which strongly recommend this work: in the first place, it is by no means dear for one containing quarto coloured illustrations. In the next, the authors seem to spare no pains to get together ample materials to enable them to verify the relationship of closely allied races by actual comparison of specimens. Notes and observations on habits, &c., are not only collated from every available source, but a quantity of new matter bearing on these points has been collected together. Descriptions of sexes, as well as of young in various stages of plumage are given very fully. At the risk of being called hypercritical, we must confess that it appears to us that the authors are displaying even too much zeal in their anxiety to lay before ornithologists all that has been written about each species rather than in sifting out the points having more important bearing on the subject. We should have preferred, for the sake of brevity, to have seen these points given in our authors' own words, rather than in long quotations from already published matter. We think, too, that where so much is brought forward it would have been of great service had the subjects been more carefully classified under headings, so as to facilitate reference to any particular

* *A History of the Birds of Europe*, including all the species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region. By R. B. Sharpe and H. E. Dresser. 4to. London. Parts I.-IX.

subject. The descriptions are long, and we should have liked to have seen the salient characteristics of each species given, as in Sharpe's Monograph of the Alcedinidæ, in concise terms. It is true that plates do away with much of the immediate necessity of such diagnostic characters; yet their presence would have been an undoubted gain. These are minor matters, and are outweighed many times over by the real merits of the work, upon which no pains have been spared either in letterpress or plates. The authors have a long journey before them; but we do not doubt their industry and ability to accomplish all they have undertaken. We wish them every success.

A Catalogue of the Birds of Europe, by M. Alph. Dubois*, has just reached us. A bare list of 575 European species are recognized, without including what M. Dubois considers "Varietates climaticæ." In dealing with these latter, the lines between so-called species and varieties have been drawn without much discrimination, and the author not unfrequently, as in the case of *Falco peregrinus*, *Strix flammea*, &c., travels far outside his limits to show, we suppose, the number of "varieties" into which those "species" are divisible. Stragglers are freely admitted to rank as European birds. M. Dubois pays no regard to an important rule of nomenclature respecting authors of generic names. Thus we find the first edition of Linnæus constantly quoted, Moehring, we might almost say of course, Barrère, 1745, Ray, 1713, and Aldrovandus, 1610-11! How often must it be repeated that the names of these authors have no meaning whatever in a binominal sense?

The second part of a new 'Fauna d'Italia' contains the commencement of an account of the Italian birds by Count Tommaso Salvadori†.

The first fasciculus, which is all that has yet reached us, includes 196 species belonging to the following orders of Count Salvadori's arrangement:—ACCIPITRES (diurni et nocturni); PICARIÆ (Picidæ, Yunginæ, Cuculinæ, Coraciidæ, Meropidæ, Al-

* Conspectus systematicus et geographicus Avium Europæarum auctore ALPH. DUBOIS, Doctore Scien. Nat.; conservatore in Museo reg. Nat. Hist. Belgii. Bruxellis (1871). Large 8vo, pp. 35.

† Fauna d'Italia, Parte seconda: Uccelli, per Tommaso Salvadori. Fascicolo primo; Milano, 1870 (Francesco Vallardi).

cedinidæ, Upupidæ, Caprimulgidæ, Cypselidæ); PASSERES (Hirundinidæ, Muscicapidæ, Ampelidæ, Laniidæ, Paridæ, Certhiidæ, Troglodytidæ, Cinelidæ, and part of the Turdidæ).

The list seems likely to be a very full one, as the birds not only of Sardinia, but also those of Malta, are included.

The Rev. J. J. Halley has commenced an illustrated work on Australian Parrots*. We admit the force of the temptation to depict a family so nobly represented at the antipodes; but the first part of the present publication does not recommend it either as a work of art or as embodying information likely to be of service to the science of ornithology. The delineations are very far behind even average productions of a like nature.

Mr. Gould has just issued the twenty-fourth part of his great work on the 'Birds of Asia.' In it is figured a "*Pellorneum palustre*, Jerdon," of which he is unable to give any information, or even a correct reference to the work in which it has been described. As regards the latter point, we believe that we may assure Mr. Gould, with confidence, that the bird has never yet been described at all, and that the only publication of it which has taken place is that in the 'Birds of Asia.' As regards its habitat and locality, Major Godwin-Austen informs us that he obtained one specimen of this rare species, at the end of the month of September, at the base of the Khasia Hills near Chatak, in the great "beel" or marsh there. The species seemed to haunt the thickets of high reeds, and of a kind of bramble which is peculiar to those marshes. It may not be so rare, Major Godwin-Austen observes, as has been supposed; but it is extremely difficult to shoot birds when moving along in a canoe through the reed-beds of that district, and still more difficult to pick them up when shot. Dr. Jerdon likewise obtained a specimen of this bird somewhere in Assam.

Some characteristic drawings, by Swainson, have recently been published, with short accompanying descriptions by Mr. G. R. Gray†. These plates, twelve in number, were prepared to form

* A Monograph of the Psittacidæ or Parrot Family of Australia. By the Rev. J. J. Halley. Illustrated from original drawings by James W. Sayer. London, Trübner.

† A Fasciculus of the Birds of China. By G. R. Gray, F.R.S.

part of a series of figures of Chinese birds by Dr. J. E. Gray, but were laid aside through pressure of other engagements. Swainson was perhaps the best ornithological draughtsman of his day; and these drawings, larger than the size he usually adopted, are unsurpassed by any illustrating his well-known works.

Mr. J. A. Allen's article "On the Mammals and Winter Birds of East Florida, with an examination of certain assumed specific characters in Birds, and a sketch of the Bird Fauna of Eastern North America," printed in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, vol. ii., is likely to produce, if it has not already done so, considerable agitation amongst ornithologists on both sides of the Atlantic. The author makes a most able protest against the minute subdivision of specific names, with special reference to the works of his own countrymen. His arguments are supported by minute examination of a number of specimens; and his observations are carefully collated in tables. The nature and extent of individual variation in many species is fully dwelt upon; and thence the author proceeds to what he calls climatic variation, and, lastly, treats of "Species, Varieties, and Geographical Races." Certain peculiarities of colour are traced to certain meteorological peculiarities of the regions where they occur. Increase of colour to the southward is shown to correspond with increased intensity of the solar rays and greater humidity of climate, and the maximum amount of colour in many birds of the United States to correspond with the maximum rainfall. The practical application of these laws, as understood by Mr. Allen, is shown by his placing as simple synonyms the names of a number of birds separated by recent writers on North-American ornithology. In some instances we should be inclined to think he has made out his case; but the materials at our disposal in this country are not sufficiently extensive to enable us to form a very decided opinion on many of the cases cited. Still on these subjects we have a well-founded suspicion of the application of analogical reasoning; and on looking into the instances in which the author has applied his rules outside the extent of the specimens at his command, we are strongly of

opinion that he has pushed matters too far, and that he, and the writers he seeks to refute, represent, as it were, the opposite limits of a pendulum's oscillation, the golden mean lying between the two. A prominent case in point is that of the Buzzards of North America.

Mr. Allen states his present opinion to be, that (putting *B. lineatus* aside) all the so-called species may be referred to *B. borealis* and *B. pennsylvanicus*, to which *B. oxypterus* of Cassin is united. We much doubt the possibility of maintaining the number of species claimed by Baird and others; but we cannot refrain from putting in a plea for *B. swainsoni*, which, so far as our experience goes, never assumes the red tail so characteristic of *B. borealis*. With *B. swainsoni*, *B. insignatus* must be placed; and it yet remains to be seen how far this bird differs from *B. vulgaris* of the northern portion of the Old World. The true *B. harlani* must, we think, be called a melanism of *B. borealis*. As for *B. oxypterus* we have always considered *B. fuliginosus* of Sclater synonymous with it; and if so, it is not *B. pennsylvanicus* as Mr. Allen asserts. Take another case: *Scops maccalli* is placed as a synonym of *S. asio*; the name really is synonymous with *S. trichopsis* of Wagler, the bird being quite distinct from *S. asio*, as has been pointed out elsewhere*.

Some useful generalizations respecting the distribution of North-American birds form the next portion of this instructive paper; but here again Mr. Allen is led outside his immediate subject into a sketch of his views of the distribution of ornithic life on the globe's surface. Finally, we have a list of works on American ornithology, classified according to the countries to which they especially apply; but again we find, especially in Central America, that the classification laid down has not been very accurately adhered to.

This memoir will, we believe, act as a useful antidote against the undue tendency to recognize species; but we must repeat our warning that too much stress should not be laid on the supposed action of physical laws upon the plumage, bills, &c. of birds. Then again these climatic variations require the closest attention, and it is yet a question under which system they receive the

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 57.

most. To those who believe in the doctrine of evolution "individual variation," "climatic variation," &c. are but the first steps in the series which culminates in creatures, we might say, as wide as the poles asunder.

A valued contributor has recently sent us number 14 (Jan. 19, 1872) of volume iv. of the 'Cornell Era,' "published every Friday by students of the Junior Class at the University [Cornell] press," wherein we find a letter signed "T. W. J. Jr." giving Professor Baird's and Dr. Coues's opinions as to the validity of a certain Grouse described in the number of 'The Era' for the 8th of December, 1871, as *Bonasa jobsii*. Both these high authorities unite in saying that the supposed species is based on a somewhat abnormal specimen of *Bonasa umbellus*. One remark of Professor Baird's quoted in this letter is significant: he writes, "When I published my work on the birds of North America I was in what might be called the analytical stage of Natural-History development. My present condition is synthetical. I take more pains now to subordinate forms, once considered specific, than I do to establish them as such."

The first part of Giebel's 'Thesaurus'* has lately reached us. It contains, in the first place, references to the works of authors arranged under a number of headings; then follows the commencement of an alphabetical enumeration of the species and genera of birds. As it would be premature to discuss the merits of this latter portion, we will merely remark that the first word (p. 255) contains a palpable misprint! We must confess that, having expected great things from this work (*Ibis*, 1871, p. 251), a perusal of this first portion has produced in us a feeling of great disappointment. In the first place the classification of the various works of authors under their respective names is so complex that it is difficult to know where to look for any specific work or paper. We could afford to overlook this unnecessary complication were the papers themselves placed with even ordi-

* *Thesaurus Ornithologiæ. Repertorium der gesammten ornithologischen Literatur und Nomenclator sämtlicher Gattungen und Arten der Vögel, nebst Synonymen und geographischer Verbreitung, von Dr. C. G. Giebel, Professor an der Universität in Halle. Leipzig, 1872. Erster Halbband. Large 8vo, pp. 400 (F. A. Brockhaus).*

nary care under the headings they might be expected to be found under; but accuracy has been entirely neglected, and we find errors and blunders that are little short of astounding. To justify these strong remarks, the following instances selected out of a host of others will, we think, be sufficient. To begin at home, the first and second series of this Journal are set down as containing five volumes each (p. 10). Under "Propagatio" (p. 120) we find that the views of our worthy predecessor in 1852 took a very practical turn, and that he published in that year a work on the "breeding, rearing and fattening of Domestic Poultry"! Works and papers upon the birds of different portions of the world are arranged under the particular country to which they belong. It is there that the most glaring errors are to be found. Under "Britannia" we find (p. 165) a paper in the Boston Society of Natural History, by H. Bryant, entitled "List of Birds observed at Grand Manan and Yarmouth"!; also (p. 165) a descriptive catalogue of the raptorial birds in the Norfolk and Norwich Museum. Wickevoort-Crommelin's papers in the Ned. Tijdschr. Dierk. and elsewhere are included under "Germania, Austria" (p. 178), somewhat prematurely, we cannot but think. Under "Asia" we find (p. 190) "Notes on Birds collected in Benguela, by J. Monteiro." Can Benguela have been confounded with Bengal? So far as we can see, the Antilles, Bermuda, Vancouver's Island, the Falkland Islands, and Hainan are all classified under "Australia and Oceania;" in addition to which we find under the same heading a paper on North-China birds and Mr. Stevenson's 'Birds of Norfolk' (was Norfolk Island supposed to be the scene of Mr. Stevenson's labours?)! Papers on the birds of North, Central and South America are hopelessly confused. Sombrero, Chiriqui, Nicaragua, Yucatan, Puna Island in the gulf of Guayaquil, and Honduras all come into North America. Central America, according to Dr. Giebel, contains the district of Columbia (an astonishing fact for the Government of the United States), to say nothing of the Smithsonian Institution; and South America is the scene of Mr. Layard's notes from the Antipodes! Finally, but, alas! not exhaustively, Mr. Eyton's Catalogue of the species of skeletons of birds in his possession finds itself classified under "Aves monstrosæ, abnormes, hybridæ"! Misprints abound to

such an extent that the work reads not unlike first proofs just issued from the hands of a careless printer. Had some simple or even alphabetical arrangement of authors been adopted, with less regard to the particular nature of their works, and the whole undergone careful revision, the result would have proved of the greatest benefit to working ornithologists. Even as it is, we can see that the book can be used with advantage as a ready guide to references, the omission of which in Mr. Gray's Hand-list forms its weakest point.

Messrs. H. M. Labouchere and Mr. Jesse have undertaken a translation of Dr. A. E. Brehm's 'Bird-Life'*, of which four parts have appeared. The translators seem to have performed their duties with commendable care; and the parts improve as they go on. We cannot, however, but wish that their energies had been bestowed upon a work more worthy of their labour. Dr. Brehm's book abounds with observations of a very superficial character, and appears to us to be likely to afford little solid instruction either to the student or the general reader. We trust an index to scientific names will be given in the last part; for at present it is very difficult to find the subjects of Dr. Brehm's observations. To search for them is like (to quote the old saw) "looking for a needle in a truss of hay."

Ornithological Works in prospect.

The numerous ornithological notes which have appeared in the pages of this Journal and elsewhere upon the birds of Egypt are shortly to be collected under one cover by Captain G. E. Shelley, who has much additional information to impart. The work will be large octavo size, and will be illustrated by fourteen coloured Plates. This book will be of undoubted use and interest to all travellers on the Nile, more especially as the description of each species will be sufficiently full to enable the traveller to identify his specimens. The prospectus, which has just reached us, contains a pretty Plate, by Keulemans, of *Nectarinia metallica*.

Messrs. Layard and Sharpe have in preparation a 'Handbook

* Bird-Life. By Dr. A. E. BREHM. Translated from the German by H. M. LABOUCHERE and W. JESSE. Large 8vo: London, 1871. Parts I.-IV. (Van Voorst).

to the Ornithology of South Africa,' to take the place of Mr. Layard's useful little work on the birds of South Africa, which has been freely criticised in these pages. The last-mentioned book, we are happy to learn, has proved an undoubted success ; and we feel confident that this promised new publication, which will combine all that has since come to light on the birds of South Africa, will meet with similar favour. Its scope will be enlarged, so as to include all the birds found within the limits of the South-African avifauna, and will thus comprise those of Natal and Damaraland, as far north as the Zambesi on the east and Benguela on the west.

Books such as this on local faunas are of the utmost service, and do more than any other class of work to develop a latent taste for ornithology in many a one who would otherwise never progress beyond the acquirement of vernacular names.

The labours of the late Mr. C. J. Andersson in Damaraland are, we are glad to hear, not to be lost to science ; for Mr. J. H. Gurney, who, as the readers of 'The Ibis' well know, has long interested himself in the study of the birds of the adjoining regions, has undertaken the task of editing the voluminous MSS. which that well-known collector left behind him. Part of the book is already in the press ; so that we may confidently expect the finished work shortly.

Mr. Buller, well known for his researches amongst the birds of New Zealand, is now on a visit to England, with the express object of bringing out the complete work contemplated some years ago (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 504) on the ornithology of that country, where zeal for our science seems in the ascendant. The book is to be in quarto, of the same size as Messrs. Sharpe and Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' and is to be illustrated in the same style by thirty-five coloured Plates, to include about seventy figures of New-Zealand birds. The prospectus, which has just been issued, tells intending subscribers to apply to the author, 7 Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Mr. Elliot promises shortly, so soon as his grand 'Monograph of the Phasianidæ' is completed, to commence the issue of a similar work on no less a subject than the "Birds of Paradise."

The drawings for the Plates have been already executed by Mr. Wolf ; and having stated thus much, we can only say that a group of birds so difficult to represent adequately is certain to be done justice to, so far as illustration can do it.

We are promised an ornithological work upon the birds obtained during Forsyth's expedition to Yarkand, to which allusion has already been made in these pages (*cf.* 'Ibis' 1871, p. 407), where the new species obtained were described by Mr. Hume. The volume is to be in the form of Blanford's 'Geology and Zoology of Abyssinia,' and is to be illustrated by about thirty coloured Plates. The work will appear under the joint authorship of Dr. Henderson, the Surgeon to the expedition, and our well-known contributor, Mr. Allan Hume.

Professor Baird informs us that the first batch of MSS. for the work on the 'Birds of North America,' on which he and Dr. Brewer have been engaged for several years, has been sent to press. The work is to be something in the style of the 'Birds of California,' but will be superior to it in beauty, and will embody a much larger proportion of biographical text to each species. The engravings of the heads used in that work have nearly all been reproduced in more artistic style ; and this especially applies to the new ones, relating to the peculiar eastern species. This preliminary labour, Prof. Baird tells us, is finished ; so that ere long we may expect the complete work.

We have received the following pamphlets, in addition to extracts from the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' and other English Journals :—

"On the Sternum and Viscera of Pel's Owl (*Scotopelia peli*)."
By JAMES MURIE, M.D. From the Journal of Anatomy and Physiology, Nov. 1871.

"List of Birds collected or observed in the Wardha Valley and its vicinity near Chánda." By W. T. BLANFORD. Journ. As. Soc. Beng. xl. part ii. 1871.

"Note on Colonel M'Masters's List of Birds from Nagpore &c." By W. T. BLANFORD. Journ. As. Soc. Beng. xl. part ii. 1871, p. 216.

“Bericht über die Leistungen in der Naturgeschichte der Vögel während des Jahres 1870.” Von G. HARTLAUB. Arch. für Naturg. xxxvii. Jahrg. 2ter Bd.

“Ueber die durch Herrn Baron E. v. Ransonnet von der Ostasiatischen Expedition eingesendeten Säugethiere und Vögel.” Von AUGUST VON PELZELN. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell. in Wien, Feb. 1871.

“Ein Beitrag zur ornithologischen Fauna der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie.” Von AUGUST VON PELZELN. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell. in Wien, März, 1871.

“Monographie der Gattung *Certhiola*.” Von Dr. O. FINSCH. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell. in Wien, April, 1871.

“Die Grundlagen des Vogelschutzgesetzes.” Von GEORG Ritter von FRAUENFELD. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell. in Wien, Juli, 1871.

“Der Vogelschutz.” Von GEORG Ritter von FRAUENFELD. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell. in Wien, Oct. 1871.

“Om en hidtil ukjendt Knogle i Hovedskallen hos Tura-koerne (*Musophagides*, Sundev.), med nogle Bemærkninger om de lignende Knogler hos andre Fuglefamilier.” Af J. REINHARDT. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den nat. For. i Kjöbenhavn for Aaret 1871.

“Supplement til “Norges Fugle og deres Geographiske Udbredelse i Landet (1868–70).” Af ROBERT COLLETT. Vidensk.-Selsk. Forhandlinger for 1871.

“Ornithologiske Bemærkninger til Norges Fauna.” Af ROBERT COLLETT. Indberetning til det akademiske Collegium ved det kongelige Frederiks Universitet. Christiania, 1871.

“Intorno alla *Fringilla citrinella*, Linn.” Nota di TOMMASO SALVADORI. Atti della Reale Ac. delle Sc. di Torino, vol. vii. Dec. 1871.

‘Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Institution for the year 1869.’ Washington, 1871.

“Descriptions of new Species of Birds from Mexico, Central America, and South America, with a note on *Rallus longirostris*.”

By GEO. N. LAWRENCE. From the Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, vol. x. p. 1 (Feb. 1871).

"Descriptions of three new Species of American Birds, with a note on *Eugenes spectabilis*." By the same. Ibid. p. 137 (Nov. 1871).

"Descriptions of New Species of Birds of the Families Troglodytidae and Tyrannidae." By the same. Proc. Ac. Phil. 1871, p. 233 (Dec.).

"Notes on some Birds in the Museum of Vassar College." By Professor JAMES ORTON. Am. Nat. iv. No. 12, Feb. 1871.

"Bullock's Oriole." By ELLIOTT COUES. Am. Nat. v. Nov. 1871.

'Archives of Science and Transactions of the Orleans County Society,' vol. i. nos. 1-3, Oct. 1870 to April 1871.

The latter contains the commencement of a "Catalogue of and Observations on the Birds of Vermont." By the Rev. DANIEL GOODHUE.

"Annual Report of the Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts."

"Zur Ornithologie Nordwest-Amerika's." Von Dr. O. FINSCH. Abh. des naturwiss. Vereins zu bremen, Bd. iii. Jan. 1872.

XXV.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

We have received the following letters addressed to "The Editor of 'The Ibis'":—

Rajkoti, Kattywar.

SIR,—I venture to write you a few lines on a subject which has caused me much perplexity. I have always been under the impression that *Cyornis banyumas* and *C. tickelliae* were two distinct species, the latter, according to Jerdon, being only found in Central India. Some two years ago, when visiting the southern districts of this Province, I was somewhat surprised to find *C. banyumas* and *C. tickelliae* in equal numbers and both very common. Since then I have constantly met with both species wherever the country was fairly wooded, and have frequently shot them off the same tree and within a few minutes of each